

SPECIAL MEETING NORTH SMITHFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

JUNE 2, 2014

KENDALL-DEAN SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

7:00 P.M.

The meeting began at 7:00 P.M. with the prayer and the pledge to the flag. Council members present were Ms. Alves, Mr. McGee, Mr. Yazbak, Mr. Zwolenski and Mr. Flaherty. Also in attendance were Town Administrator Hamilton and Town Solicitor Lombardi.

AMENDMENT TO COMPREHENSIVE PLAN/MAPS D-1 AND D-2 (ANCHOR SUBARU)

When the initial vote was taken on this on May 19th, no reasons were given one way or the other and Mr. Flaherty felt this was unfair. He voted his conscience and the zone change as requested did not meet his requirements for being compatible with the surrounding neighbors. That denial may not now be in the best interest of the abutters.

Mr. McGee gave his explanation as to why he voted in favor of the zone change. Business belongs on highways and he felt the best job was done to make concessions to the abutters. The town needs business and improvements to the town cannot all be paid for on the backs of the residents. Mr. McGee was unsure who would want the lot, with no water or sewer, should the Benoits decide to pick up and leave. He went to Planning Board meetings to get as much information as he could and he tried to be fair to everyone. Mr.

McGee did not like the blast line or the short buffer zone and the petitioners made concessions for both.

Mr. Zwolenski commended Mr. Robert Benoit for scaling back the plan.

Mr. Lombardi explained the process for reconsideration of a vote, noting that any member who had originally voted in the majority could ask for reconsideration at the next regular meeting. However, no new information should be obtained.

Listed on the agenda this evening are two out of three items from the May 19th meeting pertaining to the Anchor Subaru petition. Mr. Yazbak commented that he had asked that the zone change for Lot 14 be included as well but no one who had voted in the majority opted to do so. He felt including this lot would have given more comfort to the abutters than what could potentially happen this evening.

MOTION by Mr. Flaherty, seconded by Mr. Zwolenski, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to reconsider the vote taken on May 19, 2014 denying the Comprehensive Plan amendments for Maps D-1 and D-2.

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MOTION by Mr. Yazbak and seconded by Mr. McGee to amend the North Smithfield Comprehensive Plan Maps D-1 and D-2 to allow

portions of Plat 17 Lots 199, 142, 84 and 14 to be changed from Residential Suburban (RS) to Highway Business (BH) with appropriate transitional restrictions.

Following a recommendation by Mr. Lombardi, Mr. Yazbak opted to amend the motion.

MOTION by Mr. Yazbak and seconded by Mr. McGee to amend his motion to include and incorporate the Planning Board recommendations and findings as to Lots 199, 142, 84 and 14.

Roll call vote: Ms. Alves - no; Mr. McGee - yes; Mr. Yazbak - yes; Mr. Zwolenski - no; and Mr. Flaherty - no. The motion failed 3 to 2.

MOTION by Mr. Flaherty, seconded by Mr. Zwolenski, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve the amendment to the North Smithfield Comprehensive Plan Maps D-1 and D-2 to allow portions of Plat 17 Lots 199, 142 and 84, excluding Lot 14, to be changed from Residential Suburban (RS) to Highway Business (BH) with appropriate transitional restrictions and incorporating the Planning Board findings and recommendations as to Lots 199, 142 and 84.

AMENDMENT TO NORTH SMITHFIELD ZONING ORDINANCE/MAP (ANCHOR SUBARU)

MOTION by Mr. Flaherty, seconded by Ms. Alves, and voted

unanimously on a roll call vote to reconsider the vote taken on May 19, 2014 denying the amendment.

MOTION by Mr. Flaherty, seconded by Ms. Alves, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve the amendment to the North Smithfield Zoning Ordinance/Map to rezone property described as Assessor's Plat 17, Lots 199, 142 and 84 located off Eddie Dowling Highway from Residential Suburban (RS) to Highway Business (BH) incorporating the Planning Board recommendations and findings as to Lots 199, 142 and 84.

There was a five-minute recess called at 7:20 P.M.

The meeting resumed at 7:26 P.M.

SCHOOL DEPARTMENT BUDGET PRESENTATION

School Committee member William Connell gave a presentation on the School Department proposed budget for 2014-2015, noting that this budget is one that maintains current programs. The School Committee is not looking for a blank check but good schools do attract business. Revisions were made based upon a \$249,600 allowable local appropriation increase. Mr. Connell reviewed staffing of teachers and other personnel and provided draft analyses for benefit obligations and operational budgets. The largest expenses of the operational budget are Central Office, Pupil Personnel Services and Facilities. One hundred percent of the Central Office budget is

utilized with little “discretionary” ability; eighty-four percent of the Facilities budget is utilized with little discretionary ability-growth; and ninety-eight percent of the PPS budget is committed.

This budget supports:

- Reasonable adjustment in employee salary and benefits
- Needed adjustment to PPS Department budget; Central Office budget
- Measured increases to building based budgets
- Maintains teaching and support staff at the preschool through grade 5 level with a net reduction of one teacher due to class size shifting enrollments
- Maintains high school Department Heads; athletic and guidance directors; the present teaching staff allowing for adjustments to course offerings as necessary utilizing the present staffing - with a reduction of guidance Department clerk/typist from full-time to part-time
- Maintains middle school team teaching concept and team leaders - with one reduction of .6 special education teacher
- Maintains all school extracurricular programs and offerings which include a full music program, support for We The People, DECA,

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NHS, various after school opportunities for various clubs including related transportation and ceremonies.

- Maintains current level of guidance counselors at the middle school

and high school

- **Maintains the present level of student support from school psychologist, social workers, nurses**
- **Maintains the athletic program/offerings including middle school athletics however at the FY 13 operational budget {- \$35,000}**
- **Maintains custodial and maintenance services**
- **Adds a .5 English Language Learner teacher**
- **Maintains a full-day kindergarten.**

This budget is unable to support:

- **.5 Librarian HS [3 year request]**
- **Elementary Math Specialist (Halliwell/NSES)[3 year request]**
- **High school career exploration/alternative learning program**
- **High School textbooks-foreign language, math - science supplies/additional music supplies**
- **High School SADD, DECA advisors-stipends**
- **Middle School Math Specialist**
- **Middle School .5 Elective Teacher - to expand offerings**
- **Middle School SADD advisor, Club Advisors - stipends**
- **Technology professional development, hardware, software**
- **Technology Integration Specialist**
- **Facility requests in the area of high school repairs, athletic fields improvements, replacement equipment [2 year requests]**
- **\$35,000 reduction to the athletic department operational budget [2 year request for increase]**
- **Elementary Support for the Open Circle curriculum K - five [2 year**

request]

- **Guidance Counselors (Halliwell, NSES)**
- **General Maintenance Person (System-wide) [3 year request]**
- **.5 Groundskeeper (System-wide)[3 year request]**
- **Part-time Clerk - Halliwell/NSES/Middle School [3 year request]**

Mr. Connell had a slide showing the revenue sources that include local funds, state education aid, federal and state grants, food service, Medicaid, preschool and non-school facilities use.

Mr. Yazbak confirmed that the School Committee was looking for the maximum amount of funding allowed to be able to do a maintenance budget, adding nothing and keeping as much as what the school department has right now, and maybe adding items that may be mandated.

In the executive summary it looked to Mr. Yazbak like two-thirds of the requested increase is for contractual obligations required by union contracts.

Mr. Yazbak is hopeful there is a better handle on the special education expenses since the report done by Mr. Sweeney and Mr. Edge. He asked what the requirements would be if the school department gets everything it asks for and the special education budget is not required. Would the funds roll over into the contingency fund. The response from Mr. Lindberg was that he had

recommended that if the line item for unanticipated tuitions is funded and is not touched, the School Committee restrict that and let it roll over.

Mr. Yazbak had questions regarding septic and water costs, required contracts, technology, professional development, and a Basic Education Plan analysis.

AMENDED RESOLUTION RE: PARTIAL ABATEMENT OF TAXES FOR RANKIN ESTATES

Because concerns had been raised at a prior meeting regarding a tax stabilization plan and the uncertainties as to the value, an amended resolution was presented this evening by Attorney Patrick Dougherty.

This amends the resolution to a total abatement of \$100,100 of no more than seven years from the time the Master Plan approval is granted. In addition, every possible lawsuit must be dismissed with prejudice.

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In response to a question from Mr. Zwolenski, Mr. Dougherty explained that the taxes will be assessed in the same manner as any other property in the town and the tax rates may change or stay the same. However, what Narragansett Improvement will be entitled to do is allot \$14,300 somewhere in that 225 acres of property and receive an abatement of \$14,300 a year less in taxes.

MOTION by Ms. Alves, seconded by Mr. McGee, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve the amended resolution requesting General Assembly action allowing the Town of North Smithfield to partially abate taxes for Rankin Estates: “Whereas, the Town of North Smithfield is a party to three lawsuits filed in the Rhode Island Superior Court identified as Narragansett Improvement Company et al v. Jill Gemma, et al, C.A. No. PC 08-7468, Narragansett Improvement Company et al v. Vincent Marcantonio et al, C.A. No. PC 08-6504, and Town of North Smithfield v. Narragansett Improvement Company et al, C.A. No. PC 08-3674 (collectively, “Lawsuits”); Whereas, the Town of North Smithfield, Narragansett Improvement Company and the other parties to the Lawsuits have reached an agreement to settle and resolve the Lawsuits (“Settlement Agreement”); Whereas, the proposed amended Settlement Agreement provides, among other things, that the Town of North Smithfield will agree that the real estate taxes of the properties included in Rankin Estates may collectively receive a sum total yearly abatement in the amount of \$14,300.00, for a period of seven (7) years from the date of Master Plan approval for a grand total of \$100,100.00 in abatements (“Rankin Estates Partial Tax Abatement”); Whereas, the Town Council of the Town of North Smithfield wishes authority to vote to approve the Rankin Estates Partial Tax Abatement provision of the proposed amended Settlement Agreement, through passage of Proposed Legislation attached hereto and marked as Exhibit “A”. It is RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of North Smithfield as

follows: That each Representative to the Rhode Island House of Representatives and each Senator in the Rhode Island Senate whose district includes all or some portion of the Town of North Smithfield be requested to take all necessary actions to introduce and attain passage of an Act authorizing and allowing the Town Council of the Town of North Smithfield to vote on and authorize the Rankin Estates Partial Tax Abatement. That Town Administrator Paulette D. Hamilton is hereby authorized and directed to perform any and all acts necessary to facilitate action by the Rhode Island General Assembly to introduce and attain the passage of an Act authorizing the Town Council of the Town of North Smithfield to vote on and authorize the Rankin Estates Partial Tax Abatement. The Town Administrator is hereby authorized to sign all documents and take all steps necessary to carry out the Resolution set forth above.”

ABATEMENTS

Tax Assessor Tammy Boss presented a list of abatements totaling \$752,362.54, an unusually high number. Ms. Boss believes there are a number of reasons including motor vehicle plates being turned in late or the wrong person was billed, incorrect pricing of motor vehicles and trailers, missed senior tax exemptions and loss of information and double billing during the transfer from one system to another. There were also errors in the processing of subdivisions and in the billing of interstate trucking companies and group homes. Ms. Boss also commented that some exemptions that had been listed prior had to have been manually removed.

Even with credits for supplements that were billed and the budgeted amount for abatements of \$250,000, there still leaves approximately \$400,000 of revenue that will not be collected.

Mr. Yazbak questioned why the abatements were coming out in June, leaving 28 days to solve a \$400,000 problem.

Ms. Boss explained that the abatements took a year to process and it was a full time job as well as trying to keep up with regular duties. She suggested in the future that the abatements be done either monthly or quarterly.

Mr. Yazbak questioned if the Council would have an audit performed for the Assessor's office as it did for the school department.

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MOTION by Mr. Yazbak, seconded by Mr. Zwolenski, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to hire outside knowledgeable CPA counsel to the equivalent of Mr. Edge in this area, and I don't know who that is but we can check on it and it can't be our existing auditors and it can't be our prior auditors, for an amount up to \$25,000.00. If it's going to be more, then it needs to come back to the Council and we need to get to the bottom of this as soon as possible, preferably in the next 28 days.

Mr. Lombardi mentioned using the current auditors as they have been recently hired this year and he believes they already have an hourly rate bid in place. It would be a quick way to do an audit.

Mr. Flaherty recommended having the Administrator look into available options, communicate with the Council and, provided there's no objection by any individual Councilors, authorize her to proceed in a way that makes the most sense. If it's determined that the Council needs somebody with particular expertise in abatements, the Council can authorize the Administrator to proceed but to do so by checking with the Council first.

Since the Council did not ask Superintendent Lindberg to provide someone to perform the school department audit, Mr. Yazbak was uncomfortable having the Administrator advising as to who could perform an audit in the assessor's office.

It was mentioned that perhaps the office of Municipal Affairs or the Auditor General's office could somehow assist in either completing an audit or providing a name.

The matter was continued to June 16, 2014.

SOLICITATION LICENSE - J. DAIGLE/TOMORROW FUND

MOTION by Mr. Yazbak, seconded by Mr. McGee, and voted

unanimously on a roll call vote to approve a solicitation license for The Tomorrow Fund. Persons collecting will be Joseph Daigle, Joshua Cournoyer and Kevin Wright and they will be at the Park Square intersection on June 7, 2014 from 8:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

SOLICITATION LICENSE - ERIN'S BOOK BUSINESS

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. Flaherty, and voted 3 to 2 on a roll call vote (Ms. Alves and Mr. Yazbak voted no) to approve a solicitation license to Erin McCullough d/b/a Erin's Book Business from 9:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.

HOLIDAY SALES LICENSES - BRIDGESTONE/FIRESTONE LLC D/B/A FIRESTONE COMPLETE AUTO CARE, TNT FIREWORKS (781 VICTORY HWY & 7 DOWLING VILLAGE BLVD)

MOTION by Mr. Yazbak, seconded by Mr. McGee, and voted 4 to 1 on a roll call vote (Mr. Zwolenski voted no on procedure) to approve holiday sales licenses to Bridgestone/Firestone LLC d/b/a Firestone Complete Auto Care and TNT Fireworks located at both 781 Victory Highway and 7 Dowling Village Blvd.).

PUBLIC HEARING RE: CONTRACT WITH RI COUNCIL 94, AFSCME, AFL-CIO LOCAL 937

Ms. Hamilton explained this is a one-year extension of the current contract with the only change being a three-percent increase in wages. Negotiations on a new contract are continuing.

MOTION by Mr. Yazbak, seconded by Ms. Alves and Mr. McGee, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to close the public hearing.

MOTION by Mr. Yazbak, seconded by Mr. McGee, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to continue this to the June 16th meeting for a vote in accordance with the ordinance, Section 2-224.

ORDINANCE AMENDMENT RE: CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY OWNED BY TOWN - 2ND READING

Ms. Alves noted that the word “shall” has been replaced with the word “may” and in a couple of places “Administrator” has been replaced by “Council”.

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MOTION by Mr. Yazbak, seconded by Ms. Alves, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to close the public hearing.

MOTION by Mr. Yazbak, seconded by Ms. Alves and Mr. McGee, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to accept the amendments as presented in yellow.

MOTION by Mr. Yazbak, seconded by Ms. Alves, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to accept the following ordinance as amended as a second reading: “It is ordained by the Town Council of the Town of North Smithfield as follows: That the Ordinance, Chapter

6, Article IV. Conveyance of Property Owned by the Town, shall be added to read as follows: ARTICLE IV: CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY OWNED BY THE TOWN. 6-28. Conveyance defined. Except as otherwise authorized by law, any real property owned by the Town of North Smithfield, regardless of the manner in which said real property has been acquired by the Town, including but not limited to by purchase, by purchase at tax sale, by gift or devise, or by tax abandonment, shall not be sold, conveyed or gifted to any person or persons, corporation, municipal corporation, utility, partnership, limited liability company or any entity of any nature unless the provisions of this chapter are complied with. 6.29. Appraisal. Prior to negotiating the sale of any real property owned by the Town of North Smithfield, the Town Administrator shall cause an appraisal of the real property, to be performed by a licensed and certified appraiser, which shall establish the current fair market value of the property for which the real property may be sold. 6.30. Manner of sale. A. The Town Administrator, upon approval of the Town Council, may determine the manner in which the real property is to be sold, which may only be by competitive sealed bidding, public auction, or through the services of a licensed real estate broker. B. In the event that the real property is offered for sale by competitive bidding, the sale may be conducted in substantially the same manner as set forth in Section 6.4 of the North Smithfield Town Code, provided that the Town Council, in their sole discretion, may reject any bid which they deem inadequate. C. In the event that the real property is offered for sale by public auction to the highest bidder, the Town shall give notice of the

time and place of sale by publication in some local public newspaper, of general circulation, at least once a week for three successive weeks before the sale, the first publication of which shall be at least 21 days before the day of sale, including the day of first publication in the computation, provided that the Town Council, in their sole discretion, may reject any bid which they deem inadequate. D. The Town Council, upon recommendation of the Finance Director, and in compliance with all applicable sections of Section 6.4, may award a contract to a licensed real estate broker. E. Upon acceptance of a bid by the Town Council, the Town Administrator shall execute and deliver to the highest bidder whose bid has not been rejected as inadequate a deed without covenants, except that the sale has in all particulars been conducted pursuant to this chapter.

6.31. Nonprofits exempted. The Town Council, recognizing that the conveyance of real property to nonprofit organizations and community development corporations can provide significant returns of a nonmonetary nature, hereby declares that conveyances of real property to entities deemed to be 501c(3) corporations, as determined by the United States Internal Revenue Service, need not adhere to the provisions of Sections 6.28, 6.29 and 6.30 of this chapter. The Town Administrator may, subject to Town Council approval, negotiate a conveyance to a nonprofit corporation, as defined in this section, for less than the appraised value or for no consideration.

6.32. Approval by Town Council. The Town Administrator shall, pursuant to the North Smithfield Town Charter Article 5, Section 6, obtain the approval of the North Smithfield Town Council prior to the sale or conveyance of

real property by the Town of North Smithfield.”

**ORDINANCE AMENDMENT RE: REVISION OF RIGHTS-OF-WAY/2ND
READING**

Town Planner Robert Ericson noted there should be an amendment to Paragraph A regarding notification of abutters and advertising by the Town Clerk.

MOTION by Mr. Yazbak and seconded by Ms. Alves to amend the ordinance as suggested by Mr. Ericson.

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Mr. Zwolenski recommended adding the advertisement would be in a newspaper of general circulation.

The main maker of the motion and the second withdrew.

MOTION by Mr. Yazbak, seconded by Ms. Alves, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to amend the ordinance as suggested by Mr. Ericson with the addition of Mr. Zwolenski’s recommendation.

MOTION by Ms. Alves, seconded by Mr. McGee, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to close the public hearing.

MOTION by Mr. Yazbak, seconded by Ms. Alves and Mr. McGee, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to adopt the amended ordinance as follows: “It is ordained by the Town Council of the Town of North Smithfield as follows: That the Ordinance, Chapter 14, Section 14.5. Revision of Rights-of-Way, shall be added to read as follows: A. The Town Council is authorized and empowered to make, from time to time, additions to or modifications of street rights-of-way for the purpose of widenings, narrowings, vacations or abandonments. The Town Clerk shall have the right-of-way section posted, notify direct abutters to the right-of-way and advertise the proposed abandonment for three weeks before the hearing in a newspaper of general circulation. No changes shall become effective until after a public hearing in relation to the changes, at which parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard. B. Before making additions or changes, the Town Council shall refer the matter to the Planning Board for a report, but if the Planning Board shall not make its report within forty-five (45) days of the reference, the necessity for the report may be deemed to be waived. C. Abandoned rights-of-way shall be considered land owned by the Town and subject to disposition as provided in these ordinances.”

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Zwolenski asked that the Town Council minutes of April 21st be removed.

Mr. Yazbak asked that the discussion/vote on the Gator’s Pub sewer

project be removed so that Mr. McGee can recuse himself.

MOTION by Ms. Alves, seconded by Mr. McGee, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to accept the remainder of the consent agenda: 1.) Town Council minutes of May 5, 2014; 2.) Sewer Commission Recommendations regarding the Branch Village Sewer Project; 3.) Resolution prohibiting free distribution of plastic bags from the Town of Charlestown; 4.) Resolution to amend Article XII, entitled “Of Education” from the Lincoln School Committee; 5.) Resolution to make RI legislators subject to jurisdiction of the Ethics Commission from the City of Newport and 6.) Resolution re: binding arbitration from the South Kingstown School Department.

Town Council Minutes of April 21, 2014

On the thirteenth page of the minutes, second paragraph from the bottom, Mr. Zwolenski noted the acronym should be corrected from “MDTEs” to “MBTEs”.

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Ms. Alves, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to accept the minutes of April 21, 2014.

**Sewer Commission Recommendation Re: Gator’s Pub Sewer Project
Mr. McGee recused from discussion on this topic as he is a part owner.**

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. Yazbak, and voted 4 to 0

on an aye vote to accept the Sewer Commission's recommendation regarding the Gator's Pub sewer project.

The matter was continued to June 12th so that a presentation could be made.

APPOINTMENT OF ZONING BOARD 2ND ALTERNATE

MOTION by Ms. Alves, seconded by Mr. Zwolenski, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to appoint Robert Najarian as the 2nd Alternate to

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the Zoning Board. This is a one-year term that expires December 1, 2014.

APPOINTMENT TO ASSESSOR'S BOARD OF REVIEW

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. Yazbak, and voted 4 to 0 on a roll call vote (Mr. McGee recused) to appoint Scott McGee. This is the completion of a three-year term that expires December 1, 2016.

AWARD OF BID FOR WATER PUMP #2 - GRAHAM DRIVE

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Ms. Alves, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve the purchase of water pump #2 for Graham Drive in the amount of \$5,865.00, with installation to be done by town employees, and with the existing

pump to be kept as an emergency backup.

OLD SMITHFIELD ROAD WEIGHT LIMITS

A number of residents have brought to the attention of Mr. Zwolenski that there have been a number of tractor trailers on this narrow, winding road, endangering pedestrians. Mr. Zwolenski would like to see a “no through heavy trucking” sign installed. He asked Ms. Hamilton if she could look into it from a safety point of view.

RESOLUTION RE: CLIMATE CHANGE

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. Flaherty, and voted 3 to 2 on a roll call vote (Mr. McGee and Mr. Yazbak voted no) to approve the following resolution: “Whereas, North Smithfield property including public infrastructure is at risk to increased strength and frequency of storm events due to flooding and high winds that may accompany storms; and Whereas, the adjoining states of Massachusetts, Connecticut, and through shared marine boundaries, New York, have taken substantial measures including planning, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and adapting to climate change, and that it is reasonable and prudent for the health, safety, and welfare of the people of the Town of North Smithfield that Rhode Island joins this regional effort to address this challenge; and Whereas, the March 2010 flooding re-emphasized the long-term vulnerability of properties in the Branch River Redevelopment Area; and Whereas, the effects of climate change in Rhode Island are real and measurable, including rising sea level; more intense storms

driving flooding; measurably longer and hotter summers and heat waves; and increasingly damaging coastal storms; and Whereas, there is scientific consensus that conditions of climate change will continue for the next century and beyond. These changes will impose increased vulnerability in Rhode Island and substantial costs to the state, which will be broadly borne across the ecosystem and society; and Whereas, increased effort is needed towards addressing the impacts of climate change in Rhode Island and preparing the state for increased impacts in the future; and Whereas, building resiliency in Rhode Island is an opportunity for long-term economic sustainability and growth in the state; and Whereas, actions from cities throughout the United States have been an integral part of pressing for solutions at higher levels of government; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: 1. That the Town of North Smithfield supports statewide efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions using strategies with measurable goals and targets for the electricity, transportation, and thermal sectors to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. 2. That the Town of North Smithfield calls on the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations to adopt a comprehensive plan to reduce the State's greenhouse gas emissions to 25% below 1990 levels by 2025, 50% below 1990 levels by 2035, and 85% below 1990 levels by 2050, in accordance with the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers Climate Change Program. 3. That strategies, in partnership with business and civic leaders, to be developed by state agencies with scientific advisory and public participation, may include but are not limited to the

following: offering market based mechanisms, expanding financing and investment tools, modernizing the electric grid, improving incentives for combined heat and power systems, expanding the Renewable Energy Standard and procurement, improving state energy efficiency codes and standards, addressing natural gas leaks, reducing vehicle miles traveled, promoting alternative fuel and electric vehicles, increase use and availability of efficient public transport, and adapting land-use patterns, consistent with the state guide plan, to support transit-oriented development and mixed-use commercial and residential areas.”

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MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Ms. Alves, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote at 9:52 P.M. to extend the meeting to 10:10 P.M.

COMBINED ROAD, BRIDGE, SEWER CONTRACT WITH RIDOT

Mr. Flaherty updated the other Council members on meetings that he has attended with the town administration, the Redevelopment Agency, the Sewer Commission and RIDOT because there are two bridge projects scheduled in Branch Village. Bridge #108, the railroad bridge, is at 90 percent design and is on the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) for 2015. Bridge #107 is adjacent to the ATP facility and is on the TIP for 2016. In addition, RIDOT has a plan for improving the intersection at St. Paul Street and Great Road. With those plans and the proposed Branch Village sewer project, Mr.

Flaherty questioned if the town would be in a position to work with RIDOT to have them oversee or implement a broader infrastructure contract provided that the Town will pay for the sewer portion of it. They are amenable to having that discussion so Mr. Flaherty is attempting to have a workshop with RIDOT on August 4th.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S SALARY

Mrs. MacDonald would like to put in an increase for the Town Administrator's salary in the 2015 budget. The Budget Committee has indicated that an increase would have to be approved by the Council before they would consider adding it to the budget.

Mr. Yazbak explained that in the past there would be two line items for the salary -- one from July 1st to November 30th and the second from December 1st to June 30th. He also proposed trying to come up with another method to determine an Administrator's salary.

LONGEVITY PAY FOR TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

This issue had come up a while ago and Mr. Lombardi recommended getting an opinion from the Ethics Commission which Ms. Hamilton did. Mr. Lombardi does not see anything in the written opinion or in the Charter that would prohibit longevity pay for the Town Administrator.

Again Mr. Yazbak felt that if longevity is awarded, it has to be part of the budget and has to take effect on December 1st.

Mr. Lombardi did not believe that longevity is tied to an election year budget but should just be appropriated at the proper time.

MOTION by Mr. Yazbak, seconded by Mr. Zwolenski, and voted to adjourn at 10:08 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra A. Todd, Town Clerk